

SCOTTSDALE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION REPORT



To: Path and Trails Subcommittee
From: Susan Conklu, Senior Transportation Planner
Subject: Bicycle Friendly Community Award
Meeting Date: August 23, 2016

ITEM IN BRIEF

Action: Information

Purpose:

Provide an update on turning Scottsdale's Gold award into Platinum.

Background:

The League of American Bicyclists (LAB) offers the Bicycle Friendly America program for communities, states, universities, and businesses as a tool to make bicycling available for transportation and recreation. The Bicycle Friendly Community Program (BFC) provides incentives, hands-on assistance and award recognition for communities that actively support bicycling. These communities welcome cyclists by providing safe accommodations for cycling and encouraging people to bike.

The City of Scottsdale was awarded Gold level in 2011 and 2015. The LAB designation announcement in 2015 included two other communities in the region with Mesa moving up to Silver and Tempe moving up to Gold. As the BFC program expands nationally and regionally, it is even more essential for Scottsdale's program to continue growing in order to remain competitive or reach the Platinum level.

Recommendations for Scottsdale:

After the application in 2015, LAB's review panel gave the following recommendations for Scottsdale to further promote bicycling. Key recommendations are highlighted in bold:

ENGINEERING

- **Adopt bicycle facility selection criteria that increases separation and protection of bicyclists based on the levels of motor vehicle speed and volume.**
- Ensure good connectivity of your street network by adopting connectivity policies or standards. Consider connections that impact the distances that people walking and biking would otherwise have to travel.
- **Continue to increase the amount of high quality bicycle parking throughout the community.**
- **Continue to expand and improve the bike network through the use of different types of bicycle facilities. On roads where vehicular speeds exceed 35 mph, it is recommended to provide protected bicycle infrastructure such as protected bike lanes, buffered bike lanes, or parallel 10-foot shared use paths.**
- Install a bicycle wayfinding system with distance and destination information.
- Consider ways to minimize conflicts between bicyclists and golfers, particularly areas where stray balls can create hazards or injure bicyclists.

EDUCATION

- **Work with your local bicycle groups or interested parents to expand the Safe Routes to School program to all schools.**
- Continue efforts to expand adult bicycle education opportunities such as commuter classes.
- Ensure there are bicycle education opportunities specifically for women, seniors, families, and other specific demographic groups.

- Provide more regular and well-advertised bicycling skills training opportunities for children and adults.

ENCOURAGEMENT

- Increase efforts on Bike to Work Day and Bike to School Day.
- Offer a 'Cyclovía' or Open Streets type event, closing off a major corridor to auto traffic and offering the space to cyclists and pedestrians.
- Launch a bike share system that is open to the public.

ENFORCEMENT

- **Continue to ensure that police officers are educated on traffic laws as they apply to bicyclists and motorists as well as bicycling skills.**
- Consider an update to restrictions on motorized bikes on paths to account for newer models of electrically-assisted bicycles.

EVALUATION & PLANNING

- **Continue efforts to update the 2008 bicycle plan to ensure that state-of-the-art bicycle facilities are included, and that infrastructure planning is complemented with encouragement, education, and enforcement programs to increase usage.**
- Adopt a target level of bicycle use (percent of trips) to be achieved within a specific timeframe, and ensure data collection necessary to monitor progress.
- Ensure that bicycle counts also capture the gender of cyclists to identify any gender gaps.

Building Blocks of a Platinum Bicycle Friendly Community:

The following are key benchmarks that define the average performance of a community at the Platinum award level. Items in parentheses indicate how Scottsdale is rated.

ENFORCEMENT

- Law enforcement/ Bicycling Liaison
- Bicycle-friendly laws / ordinances are in place.

EDUCATION

- Public education and outreach is rated "excellent". (Scottsdale is rated "some")
- Annual offering of adult bicycling skills classes is held quarterly.
- 60% of primary and secondary schools offering bicycling education.

ENGINEERING

- Good bike access to public transportation.
- Total bicycle network mileage to total road network mileage is at least 45%. (Scottsdale is 44%)
- 78% of arterial streets have bike lanes. (Scottsdale is 30%)

KEY OUTCOMES

- 12% of people commute to work by bicycle. (Scottsdale is 1%)
- There are 90 crashes per 10,000 daily bike commuters.
- There are 0.5 or less fatalities per 10,000 daily commuters.

EVALUATION

- At least 1 bike program staff person per 20,000 citizens. (Scottsdale has 1 per 36,200)
- Bike Plan is current and being implemented.

ENCOURAGEMENT

- Active bike clubs and signature events
- "Excellent" Bike Month and Bike to Work Events. (Scottsdale is "good")

- Active Bicycle Advisory Committee.
- Active advocacy group.
- Very likely to have recreational facilities like bike parks and velodromes.

Update:

Transportation staff presented an update on the Bike Friendly Community award to the Transportation Commission on December 17, 2015 and the Path and Trails Subcommittee on January 12, 2016. Discussion included a summary of recommendations from LAB and local reviewers.

Staff are evaluating these Recommendations and Building Blocks to Platinum and planning how they can be implemented over the next three years. Notably, many of the items are already in progress such as Wayfinding Signage, the Transportation Master Plan Update, downtown bike parking, bike share, and expanding the Safe Routes to School program.

Implementing additional items will have budget implications either in the CIP or operating budgets, or, will require staff time. Updates to the Paths & Trails Subcommittee, and Transportation Commission will continue as work progresses. Staff will assess our progress annually in preparation for the next renewal of the BFC program in the summer of 2019.